

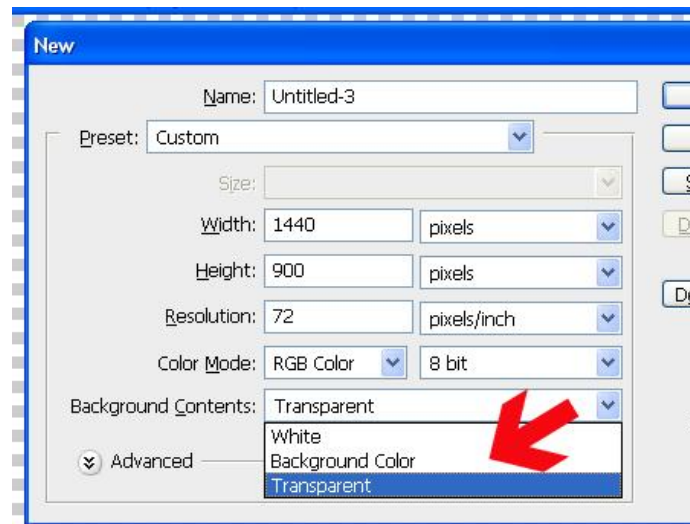
Exploring Filters & Cropping

Skills learned: creating new documents, applying transparency, cropping to specification, applying filters, duplicating layers, renaming layers, resizing the canvas, merging layers, apply a texture

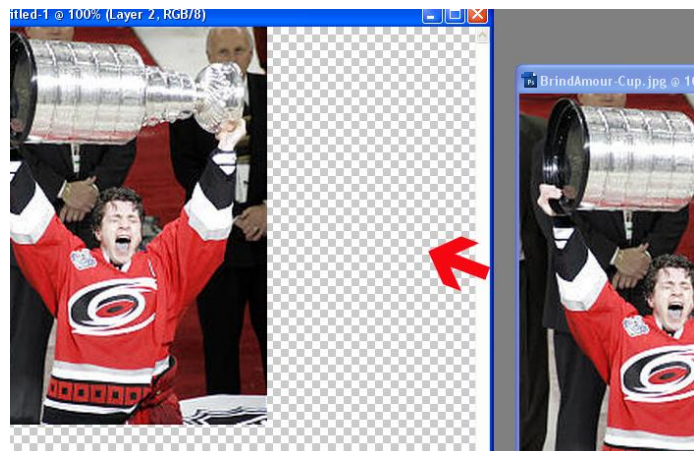
Tools used: selection tool, text tool, shape tool, color selection tool

For this exercise, you will explore how filters can be used to apply many different interesting effects in an easy manner. To start off, you will need an image of your choosing. Find one that you like online but make sure to keep it school appropriate. Once found, open the image in Photoshop. If you need to clean your image up a little, you are welcome to do so. We've discussed and used a variety of Photoshop tools already, so you can manipulate your image any way you see fit, as long as the core image is still recognizable.

The next step of this exercise may seem a little odd, but I will explain why it is necessary in a moment. You will need to know the size of your image to continue. To find this information, select **Image – Image Size** from the menu. Note the size in pixels, both height and width. Write them down on a piece of scrap paper so you do not forget them. Now, you will create a new document by going to **File – New**. Make sure the width and height of your new document are larger in pixels than the numbers you just noted. Here is the important part: using the dropdown menu for *Background Contents* at the bottom of the dialogue box, make sure you select **Transparent**.



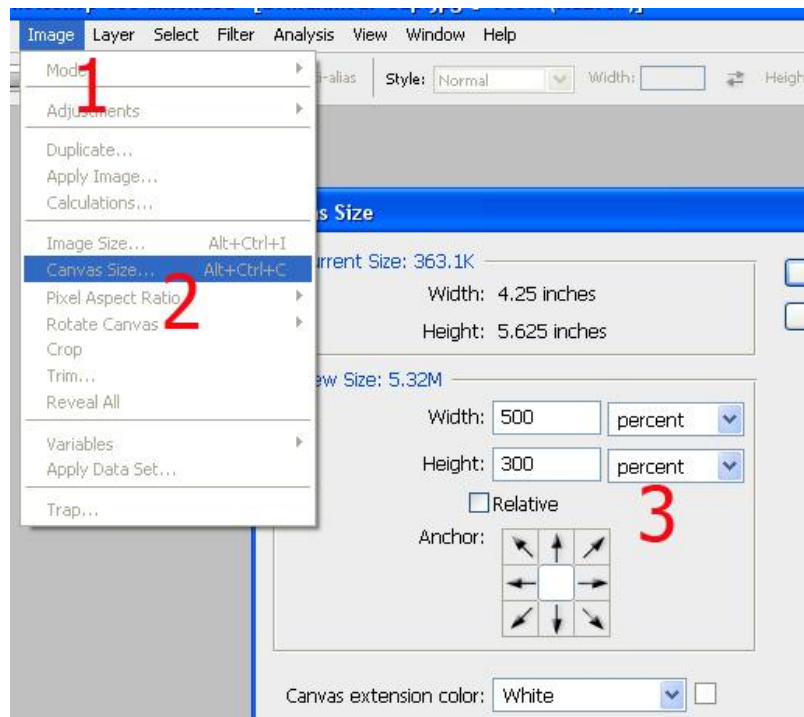
This will allow for your background to remain see-through when you perform the next steps. In other words...it saves you a lot of cleaning up work in the long run! Once you have created your new image, use the selection tool to drag and drop the image you selected online onto the new canvas area. You should see transparency extending past the edges of your image.



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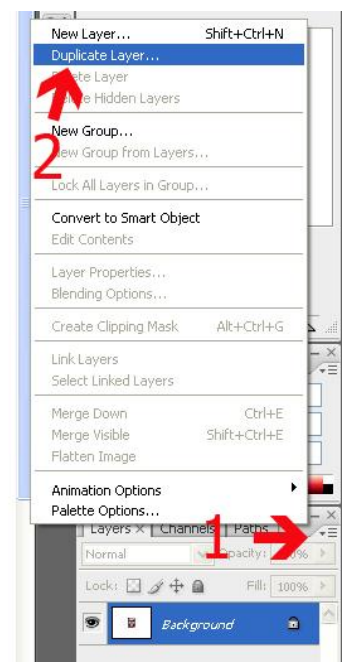
Now we are going to trim things up to make a more exact sized image. Using the selection tool, outline your image. Remember you want to have absolutely none of the grey and white checkboxes signifying the transparent background after doing this. Next, select **Image – Crop**. This will make sure your image is the perfect size for this activity from this point on.

Once you are happy with your image, you are going to create a larger canvas to work on for the remainder of this project. To do this, you will select **Image – Canvas Size** – and then resize your image to a width of 500 **percent** and a height of 300 **percent**.



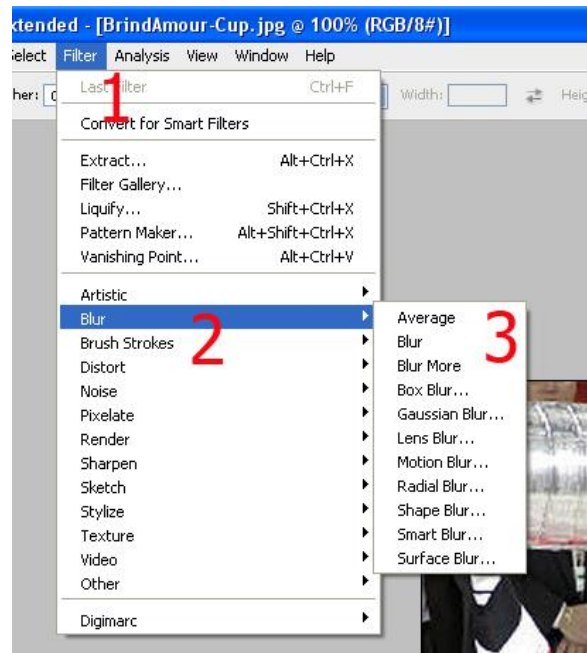
You should notice that the canvas is now considerably larger, holding your image in the center and still contains a transparent background. This is where creating a transparent background earlier is about to save you work. You will now duplicate your layer to create a total of 15 layers of the same image. To do this, use the small dropdown menu on the layers palette and select **Duplicate Layer** for each of these.

By using the selection tool, and clicking on each layer in the layer palette, you can move the images around in canvas so they line up with each other, filling the canvas with 15 copies of your image. When finished, there shouldn't be any blank space on your canvas.

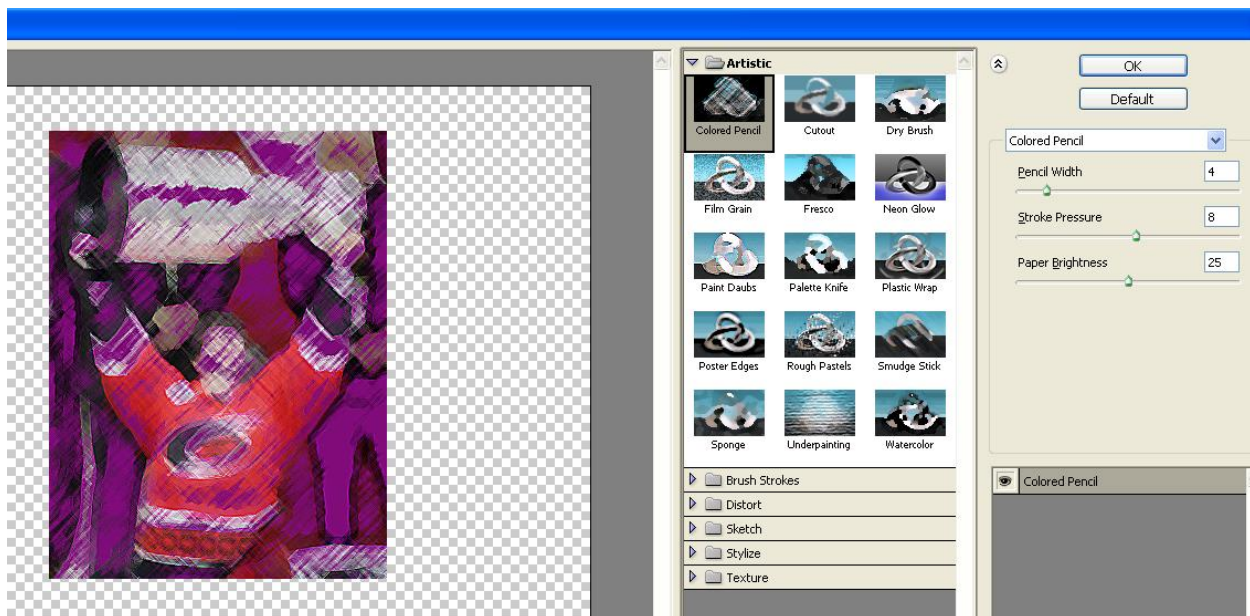


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We are now ready to begin exploring filters! Select the layer containing the upper left image on your canvas. Once selected, select **Filter** from the Photoshop Menu at the top of the screen. You will notice there are lots of different kinds of filters available for use with a simple click, each of which has a variety of submenus.

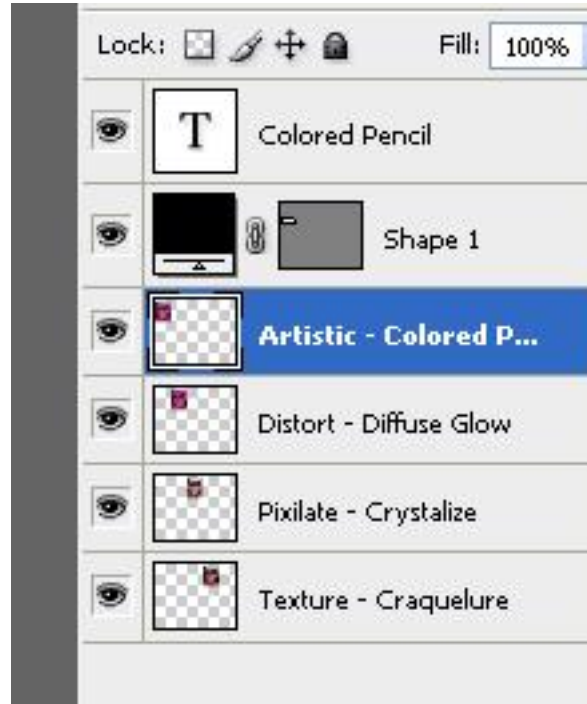


Select one that is of interest to you. In this example, I selected the Colored Pencil filter under the Artistic menu. Each filter has a variety of options that you can play with. Explore what happens when you change the different settings on the filter you selected.



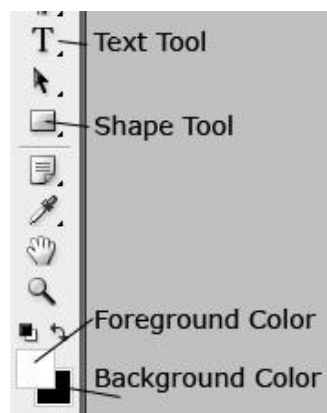
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When you are happy with your settings for the filter, click OK. You will do this for each of your layers, selecting a different filter for each. Take care in your settings as you want your images to look different from each other BUT go well together. Make sure at least one of the filters selected comes from the **Texture** menu. As you select your filters, rename that image's layer using the menu and filter name.



This is an important step as you want to make sure you know which effect was used on what layer for the final steps of this exercise.

Next, you will select a foreground color that will be easy to see over your images. Also, select a background color that will be easy to see on your foreground color. Black and white are good choices and can easily be selected by clicking the *Default Foreground and Background* button located directly above the color selection tool but you may use other colors if you like.



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Use the Shape Tool to draw a rectangle. Using the Selection Tool, move the box on top of your image. Next, use the button to switch your foreground and background colors using the *Switch Foreground and Background Colors* button located above the color selection tool. Select the Text Tool to create a textbox. Enter the name of the filter menu selected as well as the specific filter you used for that particular layer. You may have to resize the text to a larger or smaller font. Select an easy to read font, such as a sans serif like Verdana. Remember, sans serif fonts are easier to read on screens than serif fonts. Use the selection tool to move your text on top of the box you just created like such:



Once you have identified the filter for this first image, you will merge the shape, text and image layers for this filter. To do this, in the layer palette, select the appropriate layers for this first image. Then, click the dropdown menu for the layer palette and select Merge Layers. Once merged, make sure the layer is named with the filter that was used on it. Repeat these steps for each image on your canvas.

When all of your filters have been named and the appropriate layers are merged, you should have a Photoshop document containing 15 named layers with filters applied to each.

Remember to save your finished product in both a native PSD format and a JPG format. Both should be given the filename of Filters and saved back to this folder with the instructions.

